



Welcome to Bali

WELCOME TO BALI

Bali is so picturesque that you could be fooled into thinking it was an artistic masterpiece: rice paddies roll down hillsides, volcanoes soar through the clouds, the forests are lush and tropical, the beaches are lapped by the warm waters of the Indian Ocean and in the villages you'll notice the quietness and wisdom in old people's faces. Over 20,000 temples and palaces, coupled together with colourful festivals, music and dance is testimony to the island's rich heritage.

Kuta Beach – first discovered in the 60's, and once a sleepy fishing village - has now transformed into the centre of Bali's nightlife and action. Legian is where the locals, tourists and expats all mingle. Bargaining, beach activities, indulging in massages, meditating or simply reading - you name it, it's available! For a holiday where the emphasis is on relaxation, visit Jimbaran or Sanur Beaches; whilst Nusa Dua caters for the more upmarket taste and is ideal for families and water sport enthusiasts. If beaches aren't your ideal, then visit Ubud, where the culture and lifestyle of the Balinese wait to be discovered.

CLIMATE

Bali has a tropical climate with temperatures averaging 30°C year round. October to April can bring heavy showers and high humidity, but usually the days are sunny. From May to September the humidity is low, and it can be quite cool in the evenings.

LANGUAGE

Indonesian is the official language known as Bahasa Indonesian but all the Balinese people also speak Bahasa Bali (Balinese). English is spoken in tourist areas and is the common "third" language of Bali.

CURRENCY

The currency is the Rupiah which is better for bargaining and shopping in markets but US Dollars, Pounds and Euros are accepted at hotels.

TIPPING

A service charge is already included in all prices. Tips, in general, are not mandatory, and you should only give them if you are really content with the service offered.

TIME DIFFERENCE

Bali is 6 hours ahead of South Africa.

HEALTH

Visitors do not require vaccinations unless coming from or passing through a designated contaminated area. Drink only bottled water and avoid ice unless you know it is made from bottled or boiled water. Be cautious when eating from the food vendors on the street and proper care must be taken against sunburn.



COMMON COURTESIES

Shorts or revealing clothing are not allowed in religious places. The head is considered sacred and should never be touched. Hand shaking is common practice but avoid using your left hand for handshakes or giving / receiving anything. Public displays of affections between men and women are deemed inappropriate. Like anywhere in South East Asia, calmness is admired so 'keep your cool' when bargaining or if things are not running according to plan.

WHAT TO DO IN BALI

Climbing a volcano, canyoning, downhill cycling, or a hike through traditional villages will get you closer to nature and Balinese Culture. Ubud should be on your itinerary – it is indeed special. Bali is a shopping paradise; art work, handicrafts, oils and essence, clothes, shoes, furniture, accessories – you name it. There is surfing for beginners at Kuta, Legian and Seminyak Beaches. Water sport activities can be found at Benoa (jet skiing, paragliding and water skiing). Whatever your age or interest, you will be sure to find plenty to keep you busy.

WHAT TO PACK

- As a guide, the maximum weight for checked luggage is 20kg in economy class.
- Your hand-luggage should not weigh more than 6kg and needs to be small and compact
- Take along your best beach and casual wear, perfect for the day
- The dress-code for dinner is usually smart casual and gents may be required to wear long trousers
- Take an umbrella or rain poncho if travelling from October to January to March to June
- When in town, men & women should have their shoulders and knees covered. Bermuda shorts and a polo shirt are perfectly fine but halter-tops and miniskirts are insulting to locals
- Sunglasses and suntan lotion are a must
- Don't forget any medication that you might need, and be sure to pack it in your hand luggage
- Chargers for all your devices (it's a good idea to take along a few movies on a tablet or something similar as the English TV channels in your hotel may be limited)
- Swimming shoes and goggles
- Mosquito repellent
- A sun hat or cap

TRAVEL TIPS

- Pack a change of clothing in your hand luggage in case of baggage delays (and a spare cozzie so at least you can have a swim when you get to your resort)
- Clothing creases less if rolled in a sausage shape when packed – so roll, don't fold

- No sharp objects are permitted in your hand luggage (yes, tweezers are sharp!)
- Travel insurance is a must. If you can't afford it, you can't afford to travel!
- Travelling with kids – please check that you have all the relevant documents including unabridged Birth Certificates.
- Put electronics, medication, toothbrushes and jewellery in your carry-on bag
- It's often a good idea to let your bank or credit card company know that you're going overseas
- Be patient, be flexible, be spontaneous and have the best time ever!



DID YOU KNOW

- Bali is located in Indonesia which is a predominantly Muslim country. However, the majority of the Balinese practice Hinduism!
- About 80% of Bali's economy depends on tourism.
- Nyepi day, also known as 'day of silence' is a unique celebration during which the buzzing activity of the islands is replaced by sweeping tranquillity, with no work travel or noise.
- Imagine a major commercial building made completely of bamboo. Unbelievable isn't it? Bali offers the awesome opportunity to visit one such building which is actually a chocolate factory

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- A beach bag

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DID YOU KNOW

- Thailand was known as Siam until 1939
- Bangkok is typically only called "Bangkok" in English. In Thai, it is often called Krung Thep Maha Nakhon, or just Krung Thep. However, the full name is "Krung Thep Mahanakhon Amon Rattanakosin Mahinthara Ayuthaya Mahadilok Phop Noppharat Ratchathani Burirom Udomratchaniwet Mahasathan Amon Piman Awatan Sathit Sakkathattiya Witsanukam Prasit."
- Thailand is the world's largest exporter of rice
- Thailand's coastline is 3219 kms long



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